



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHANDLER, AZ WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced that on February 12, 2002, **JANNIE HOLMES-STARK** entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$58,799.00. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Theft of Government Property.

According to the Indictment, **HOLMES-STARK**, who was Representative Payee and joint bank account holder with her deceased mother, continued to receive and spend for her own personal use Social Security Retirement Insurance benefits deposited into her deceased mother's account. **HOLMES-STARK** admitted to concealing her mother's death from the Social Security Administration in order to withdraw and use the funds for her personal expenses. Sentencing before United States District Judge Roslyn O. Silver is scheduled for April 29, 2002. **HOLMES-STARK** faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The criminal prosecution is the result of a joint effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General to identify

and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs. The prosecution is being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-1082-PHX-ROS

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